

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 01788 182127Z
ACTION CU-03

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6669
INFO USIA WASHDC

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STATE FOR C/ARA: BRIGGS; USIA/ILA: CHATTEN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SEDU, VE
SUBJECT: EDUCATIONAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT

1. AMBASSADOR AND PAO MET FEBRUARY 17 WITH NEW MINISTER OF EDUCATION, CARLOS RAFAEL SILVA, REGARDING EDUCATIONAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT. AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED BACKGROUND, EVIDENT RECENT CONFUSION AND MISUNDERSTANDING, AND STRESSED THE FACT THAT THE US CONTRIBUTION WAS ALWAYS CONTEMPLATED IN THE FORM OF CONSULTANTS/ EXPERTS RATHER THAN FUNDS TO UNDERWRITE EXPERIMENTAL TEACHING PROGRAMS OR HARDWARE. AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED THAT IN CIRCUMSTANCES BOTH SIDES SHOULD GO BACK TO SQUARE ONE TO FIND AREAS FOR SUITABLE COOPERATION. AMBASSADOR INVITED THE MINISTER TO REVIEW THE BASIC AGREEMENT AND TO INDICATE ANY AREAS FOR WHICH HE WISHED THIS KIND OF COOPERATION.

2. MINISTER WAS VERY UNDERSTANDING AND RECEPTIVE. HE STATED UNHESITATINGLY THAT HE HAD ONLY ONE MAJOR PRIORITY-TO REORGANIZE AND RATIONALIZE THE MINISTRY AND EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IN AN EFFICIENT MANNER. THIS HE NOTED WAS HIS SPECIFIC INSTRUCTION FROM
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PRESIDENT PEREZ. MINISTER DESCRIBED PROBLEMS SUCH AS SWOLLEN BUREAUCRACY, INEFFICIENT NATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OF THE MINISTRY, COMPLEX AND DIFFICULT PAYROLL AND ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES FOR 150,000 PEOPLE SPREAD AROUND THE COUNTRY AND THE UNIVERSITY, SECONDARY AND PRIMARY EDUCATION SYSTEMS. IN PASSING HE NOTED THAT UNIVERSITY LEVEL EDUCATION WAS A CORNER OF HIS

RESPONSIBILITIES THAT WAS EXTREMELY TOUCHY AT THIS TIME
AND PROBABLY TO BE AVOIDED AS A PROJECT AREA.

3. THE MINISTER OBVIOUSLY FEELS HE HAS A PLETHORA
OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS, AND HE CLEARLY IS CON-
CENTRATING ON ONLY ONE THING--ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT.
THE MOST COMPELLING NEED TO HIM IS NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL
EXPERTISE OR NEW PROGRAMS, BUT RATHER FOR THE FINEST
ADVICE HE CAN MUSTER IN THE AREAS OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRA-
TION AND MANAGEMENT.

4. THE AMBASSADOR OFFERED TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF
PROVIDING ONE OR MORE WELL-QUALIFIED PERSONS FOR
A PERIOD OF TIME TO SERVE AS THE MINISTER'S PERSONAL
CONSULTANTS ON THE ORGANIZATIONAL PROBLEMS OF HIS
MINISTRY. THE MINISTER SAID HE WOULD APPRECIATE
THAT.

5. OBVIOUSLY, WE WILL HAVE TO DEFINE MORE CON-
CRETELY WITH THE MINISTER AREAS OF TASKS FOR ADVICE
AND CONSULTATION. BEFORE PROCEEDING FURTHER, HOWEVER,
WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF THE DEPARTMENT
COULD PROVIDE ONE OR MORE HIGHLY EXPERIENCED AND
QUALIFIED PUBLIC ADMINISTRATORS FROM EITHER THE
PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SECTOR (MINISTER SUGGESTED SOMEONE
WHO MIGHT HAVE HAD EXPERIENCE WITH A COMPLEX EDUCA-
TIONAL SYSTEM LIKE CALIFORNIA'S) TO SPEND TWO WEEKS
OR SO WITH THE MINISTER AND HIS CHIEF ASSISTANTS
AND HELP DEFINE WHAT FURTHER ASSISTANCE WE COULD
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PROVIDE. WE WOULD PRESUMABLY NEED TO SUPPLY LONGER
TERM GRANTEES LATER.

6. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S ADVICE AND COMMENTS,
FOLLOWING WHICH WE WILL AGAIN CONSULT WITH MINISTER
TO DEFINE SPECIFIC CONSULTATION.
VAKY

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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